REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete the multiple dependency of the claim, thereby placing such claims in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Akihiro ISHIGAMLet al.

Nils E. Pedersen

Registration No. 33,145 Attorney for Applicants

NEP/krg Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 May 20, 2004